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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 7 June 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the continued circulation by the Republic of Armenia of various papers on behalf of the puppet regime it has set up in the occupied territories of my country in violation of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. We resolutely reject such an apparent abuse by Armenia of its privilege of being a Member of the United Nations for misleading the international community by means of rude falsifications.

It is abundantly clear that, by propagating the unlawful regime, which is ultimately nothing other than the product of aggression, ethnic cleansing and racial discrimination, Armenia denies the facts, tries to evade responsibility and patently demonstrates its total disregard for the generally accepted norms and principles of international law and the position of the international community. Armenia's provocative actions also demonstrate how it is far from engaging in a constructive search for a political settlement of the conflict.

In its resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), the Security Council condemned the use of force against Azerbaijan and the bombardment and occupation of its territories and reaffirmed respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, the inviolability of international borders and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory. In response to Armenia's territorial claims and forcible actions, the Council reconfirmed that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an integral part of the Republic of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all the occupied territories.

Armenia's persistent denial of its responsibility for the aggression against Azerbaijan and unlawful occupation of and military presence in my country's territory has been effectively put to an end by the Grand Chamber of the European Court of

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Human Rights in its landmark judgment (Merits) of 16 June 2015 in the case of *Chiragov and others v. Armenia*. Having examined the evidence presented, the Court concluded that:

- "The Republic of Armenia, through its military presence and the provision of military equipment and expertise, has been significantly involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict from an early date";
- "This military support has been — and continues to be — decisive for the conquest of and continued control over the territories in issue";
- The regime in those territories "survives by virtue of the military, political, financial and other support given to it by Armenia which, consequently, exercises effective control over Nagorno-Karabakh and the surrounding territories".[1]

All papers Armenia circulates in the United Nations and other international organizations on behalf of the unlawful puppet regime are null and void ab initio and must be rejected and disregarded at the outset.

Armenia's confusing attempts to introduce Azerbaijan's internationally recognized territory — the Nagorno-Karabakh region and other occupied districts — by different names are equally invalid as they clearly violate international law, the Constitution and legislation of Azerbaijan and the principles and procedures for international standardization of geographical names established within the United Nations. Such attempts of Armenia are evidently aimed at distorting and falsifying the history and removing any signs of the Azerbaijani cultural and historical roots of the occupied territories.

We have repeatedly stated, and I want to stress again, that Armenia's annexationist and colonization policy has no chance of succeeding. The Nagorno-Karabakh region has always been and will remain an inalienable and inseparable part of Azerbaijan. Armenia will be compelled to withdraw from all the occupied territories of my country.

Yerevan must drop its futile attempts to mislead its own people and the wider international community, engage constructively in the conflict settlement process and comply with its international obligations. The sooner Armenia realizes the lack of any prospect of its dangerous and futureless political agenda and admits responsibility for the war it waged against Azerbaijan and its consequences, the sooner the conflict will be resolved and our countries and peoples will be able to benefit from long-awaited peace, stability and cooperation.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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[1] Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights, *Chiragov and others v. Armenia*, Application No. 13216/05, Judgment (Merits), 16 June 2015, paras. 180, 183 and 185–186.